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OUR HOME, OUR COUNTRY, AND OUR BROTHER MAN.

VOL. XVI.



OUR HOME, OUR COUNTRY, AND OUR BROTHER MAN.

HINTS RESPECTING MANURES.

We have often made the remark, that to the farmers in New England, manure is to their crops, what steam is to the locomotive. Hence it is an object to the farmers in Maine, to husband well every material that will make manure, and to draw upon every resource that will afford them a supply of this essential article.

The manner of using Indian corn in America, is various. It has this advantage over wheat, that subsistence may be drawn from your cornfield before the general harvest; for the green ears, roasted, are delicate food; and as the corn ripens and grows harder, salt. When it is ripe, the corn parched and ground into meal is the hunting and war provision of the Indians; being light to carry, and affording good nourishment. They mix a little of it with water, and it needs no other cooking, having passed the fire in the parching.

The grain, soaked in water, will part with its skin when beat in a large mortar with a wooden pestle.

Then it is boiled and eaten with milk. Being pounded, or boiled meal, being mixed with twice as much dry wheat flour and worked into loaves, makes much better and pleasanter bread than flour alone. All creatures fed with Indian corn, have firm and fat flesh: the pork of corn-fed hogs is reckoned the finest in the world for taste and goodness; their fat is white, and as hard as butter. The people of those countries where it is the common food of men, are healthy, strong, and hardy.

Such was the character given of good old corn, soon after the white man found out how to cultivate and use it, and we must say that it has sustained it ever since with remarkable fidelity; although the character of the people has so far changed as to rather despise it as a "common food," and as a consequence they are not so "healthy, strong, and hardy" as they were before superfine flour was considered the only food fit for ladies and gentlemen.

CUT THE BUSHES.

It is an old saying, "so old that the memory of man runneth not to the contrary," that if you cut bushes on the full of the moon in August, they will be killed "as dead as Nimmerod," and never start up again.

It is a fact that bushes cut at this time of year, will not start up quite so freely and vigorously as they will if cut later. We suppose, however, that Mrs. Moon has no more to do with it than Mrs. Victoria has.

The cause probably is this. About the middle of August the bushes and shrubs have obtained the most of their growth, but have not yet so far elaborated and perfected themselves as to begin to deposit much starch or mucilaginous matter in the buds and eyes of their branches, &c.

This starch, &c., is deposited there for the purpose of affording nourishment to the buds before the leaves are sufficiently perfected to elaborate the sap for nourishment.

Consequently, if none is deposited, the buds cannot start so freely and vigorously, and none or but little being elaborated when the bushes are cut, about the middle of August, the buds and eyes being deprived of their appropriate nutrient, are starved, and cannot grow.

Are we right in this theory? Right or wrong, cut down all the useless bushes that you can, and further experiment and observation required to elicit such facts as shall establish one way or the other the principles in dispute.

There can be no doubt, that in the round of germination, growth and decay, all the elements of organized matter have some action upon the vegetable kingdom, and it is the province of the farmer to study out and clearly understand how and in what manner this action takes place and is carried on.

Knowledge of every kind is progressive, and its being progressive should encourage every one to aid in the investigation, and not be disengaged because the whole is not known.

Some years since, Messrs. Bourneau and Payne paid much attention to the chemical ingredients and the action of different species of manures. They came to the conclusion that nitrogen was one of the most valuable ingredients in manures, and substances were valuable for that purpose, according to the amount that they afforded during decomposition. This nitrogen united with the hydrogen of the substances, and formed ammonia, and this becoming dissolved and taken into the circulation, or, being absorbed by the leaves, formed a useful and essential element of the plant in some form or other, by being combined with other elements, which went to make up the crop.

They made out a long table, intending to show the comparative value of different substances as manures, taking common farm yard dung as a standard.

This, it will be perceived, can only be a rough scale—the standard itself not having a very definite value attached to it—for what is common farm yard dung on one farm, may vary much in power from what is common farm yard dung on another.

We copy from their table some of the substances named, showing the number of loads required of those substances in both a moist and a dry state, to equal one hundred loads of farm yard dung, so far as the quantity of nitrogen is concerned.

Moist. Dry.

Pea straw, 23 100  
Wheat straw, 166 650  
Rye straw, 235 975  
Oat straw, 142 541  
Barley straw, 173 750  
Burned clover roots, 24 110  
Flax (oil) cake, 7 32  
Sawdust of oak, 74 256  
Solid cow dung, 125 84  
Cow urine, 91 51  
Solid horse dung, 73 68  
Blood, liquid, 13  
Woolen rags, 2 9  
Horn raspings, 2 12  
Bones, boiled, 5 25  
Ghee, refuse, 75 213

It is said that Com. Stockton has taken measures to import some of the famous canes breed of horses, with which Col. Fremont performed those wonderful feats in traveling which we have published an account of.

[Journal of Commerce.]

## HISTORICAL CORN SCRAPS.

We like to look back, occasionally, to other days, and learn the ideas and notions that were then prevalent in regard to agricultural products. We can only do this by the means of books. Unfortunately, books upon agriculture, in the early days of this country, (or any other in fact,) are very scarce. Occasionally we find a scrap which gives an insight to the opinions of the good people of olden time, and the following is one of them:

It is a description of the manner of using Indian corn, written soon after the first settlement of this country, by one who had visited America.

"The manner of using Indian corn in America, is various. It has this advantage over wheat, that subsistence may be drawn from your cornfield before the general harvest; for the green ears, roasted, are delicate food; and as the corn ripens and grows harder, salt. When it is ripe, the corn parched and ground into meal is the hunting and war provision of the Indians; being light to carry, and affording good nourishment. They mix a little of it with water, and it needs no other cooking, having passed the fire in the parching.

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Mr. Downing's Designs and Plans are too expensive for general use among this class of persons; they will do for what are termed gentlemen farmers, and mechanics who work, if at all, in gloves; but we want something for the industrious working man. A man who has a farm of fifty or one hundred acres, worth \$30 to \$40 per acre, does not like to expend 12, 15, or \$2500 in building a dwelling house; and if he is a prudent man, will

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# The Maine Farmer; A Family Newspaper, Devoted to Agriculture, Mechanic Arts, Literature, General Intelligence, &c. &c.



AUGUSTA, THURSDAY, AUG. 17, 1845.

## SPRINGS IN AND ABOUT CARTS AND CARRIAGES.

Some years ago, a long and laborious investigation was had before a committee of the British Parliament, with a view to ascertain the best principles of constructing roads of all kinds, and the best form of vehicles, so that the various plans and inventions of transportation and locomotion might be ascertained.

It was there proved, by men long experienced in wagoning and the management of stages and other modes of conveyance, that, although springs in carriages, so placed as to break the sudden jolt or concussion occasioned by passing over obstacles or rough places, did not diminish the weight of the burthen, they nevertheless made it easier for the horses, easier for riders, easier for the carriages, and easier for the roads.

We all know, that a sudden concussion, or jolt, is more difficult to withstand, from a given weight, if thrown upon our shoulders, than if it were let down gently; and the principle holds good, not only when applied to ourselves but to horses, and even to the inanimate carriage and the roads.

The more springs you can have, compatible with strength and durability, to ward off those sudden jolts, the better.

We saw, not long since, in Alexander's Messenger, a notice of a certain contrivance, or invention, patented by Thomas S. Spearman, of Philadelphia, to be applied to carts, drays, &c., for the very purpose above named. In the usual mode of harnessing horses into carts and drays, we have a chain passing from one shaft over the saddle on the horse's back, to the other. This brings the weight of the shafts and part of the load on to the horse's back, and it falls dead and heavy every time the wheels pass over obstacles, or over rough places and inequalities in the road.

To obviate this, and give the horse relief in this respect, Mr. S. fastens under each shaft, a half elliptic spring, the centre of which is connected to the lower ends of the staple, which pass freely through a hole bored in the shaft and connect with the chain that passes over the back. This affords relief to the back of the horse, by letting the load come down gradually and gently at each jolt, and not suddenly and violently as in the common mode.

"A merciful man is merciful to his"—horse; and we hope an invention so simple and so useful as this, will come into general use.

We think a similar contrivance on the top of an ox-yoke, connected with the ring and staple, would relieve the necks of the oxen very much and be of great service,—who will be fed?

## SAVE YOUR DROSS.

In extensive furnaces and iron works, the dross, or slag, collects and is thrown out as a useless thing, often being in the way, or forming an unsightly heap of rubbish.

A French mechanic, some years ago, devised the plan of making a good use of this material. He accordingly laid moulds, or forms in a situation to allow the dross to flow into them. The dross is allowed to cool very gradually, so as to render it tough; and to effect this, the forms are placed so as to receive a portion of the surplus flame of the furnace. The inventor thus forms flag stones, blocks for building, or for paving and other useful purposes, and they have been found to be very durable and convenient; exhibiting a hardness in many instances superior to granite. Thus, what was formerly in the way, and considered as a nuisance, is converted to a valuable use.

**HUNTING THE CRITTER.** A New Orleans watchman being desirous recently of ascertaining where they sold liquor without a license, disguised himself in the evening as a volunteer, and hunted. He took so many drams that he became uproarious, and was locked up in the watch-house by his brother watchmen, who little thought he was "one of 'em."

**Niagara Beat.** A writer in a Rochester paper says that there is a fall of water in the Eastern Ghauts, between Bombay and Comorin, as much higher than Niagara as Niagara is higher than the *stroke of a pump handle*. The river Shirawati, which falls into the Arabian sea, makes a width of a quarter of a mile, but the fall being curved, is a sweep of half a mile—it then tumbles over a plane of forty-five degrees, three hundred feet, and from this fetches a perpendicular leap of eight hundred and fifty feet! "What a fall is there, my countryman!" Excellent place for a cotton factory, ain't it, Mr. Yankee? It can't thunder though like old Niagara, any how you can fix it, and it hasn't got no bridge across it strung upon iron twine.

**THE LITERARY AMERICAN** is the title of a very neat and exceedingly well conducted literary journal recently established in the city of New York, by G. P. Quackenbos. It is in quarto form, and contains sixteen pages. Terms—\$3 per annum, in advance; two copies for one year, or one copy for two years, \$5. Address G. P. Quackenbos, post paid, 41 Ann-st., New York.

**ELECTIONS.** State elections have recently been held in North Carolina, Missouri, Illinois, Kentucky, Indiana, and Iowa. Partial returns have been received by telegraph, but from the jumbled up and conflicting statements, it is hard telling who's elected. We shall publish the results as soon as they are known "for certain."

**BUTING OUT THE HUDSON BAY COMPANY.** If accounts are correct an offer has been made to our Government, by the Hudson Bay Company, to sell out all their houses, forts, territory, buffaloes, Indians, and grizzly bears, at a fair price, and that the proposition has been discussed by the Senate in secret session.

**FERONIOUS ASSAULT.** A street fight occurred in Market Square, on Tuesday night, about twelve o'clock, in which a young man named Joseph Nickless received a severe if not fatal wound with a knife between his lower ribs. It was thought impossible for him to recover for a day or two, but he was said to be likely to live a fair way to recover. Nickless was met by a gang of half intoxicated rowdies, and one of whom was killed by one of them, whom he named. They were both arrested, and when our paper went to press were under examination. Although he is said to have been some old grudge existing between the parties, we apprehend that sum was the principal instigator of the assault, and the catastrophe but one of the legitimate effects of drunk drinking. We have need of a more numerous police.

[Kennebec Journal, 11th.]

The two young men arrested are George McLaughlin and Stephen Pullen. They were bound over to take their trial at the Supreme Court, in October next. Not obtaining bail bonds, they were committed to jail.

**SPANISH DEST.** It is stated, by foreign papers, that Spain owe to British bond-holders five hundred millions of dollars.

## STATE OF THE CROPS.

**Mr. EDITOR.**—In your 30th No. some account was given of a shower of hail which occurred at this place on the 16th of the last month. It is surprising indeed what a change has taken place during the short space of four weeks. Crops of corn, grain and potatoes, which were supposed to be entirely destroyed, have now revived and promise an abundant harvest. Some fields of corn and grain, however, which were in a very forward state at the time of the occurrence of the shower, do not promise at this time a very bountiful crop. Late sown grain and oats never appeared so well with us as at this time. This furnishes another argument in favor of growing some early and some later crops, as by doing so the farmer will often realize a better return than when the whole is committed to the ground at a very early period in the spring.

Patatoes here have not as yet been touched by the disease; some of which, procured from the broad prairies, I have seen, have almost equalled the novelties of a camp life, having the protection of the Oregon Battalion. I arrived here, or rather at the frontier, too late to meet the emigration to Oregon, which this year has been unusually limited; but I am upon the great trail, and shall join any efficient party that passes. Col. Fremont is expected soon. If he fails, I shall probably winter at Fort Larrienne, at the foot of the mountains, where there are numerous Indians and plenty of game. In opportunities to see Indians, I have been remarkably successful; having almost daily the privilege of the Foxes, who have seen the drunken frolics of the Kickapoos, met on the plains a war party of Sioux, and recently a band of Pawnees. I have painted a Cheyenne chief and brave, and got myself into trouble by so doing—the particulars of which I may give you hereafter. I have also smoked and eaten wild potatoes with a war party of 500 Sioux—find looking fellows, elegantly dressed. The farther one gets civilization, the harder it is to be comfortable in the estimation of the red man.

The large and warlike tribe of Pawnees, who have long been the dread of emigrants and traders, whose scalping knives have so often done their terrible work among the surrounding tribes, are now suffering those tortures they have so often inflicted on others. Their only friends are the Camanches—all others have sworn vengeance against them, and have determined to "wipe them out."

The Sioux commenced depredations upon the Pawnees, last autumn, by robbing them of nearly all the corn which they had raised. The example of the Sioux was followed by several others, who, in their turn, were driven off by hunting parties of the Pawnees. At length the Pawnees dared not venture far enough upon the plain for buffalo, elk, and deer, but were obliged to remain at their village, subsisting on roots and such small game as occasionally came within their limits. Spring found them in a condition bordering upon starvation; and had it not been for the timely assistance of the government who gave them 1500 bushels of corn, they must have perished. But this supply was soon exhausted; and for with it their fields were to be planted, a population numbering a thousand were reduced to a small bay to turn in.

**NOMINATIONS.** The Free Soil Convention, held at Buffalo last week, nominated Martin Van Buren as their candidate for President, and Charles F. Adams, of Boston, for Vice President.

**OFF AT LAST.** The mammoth steamer New World, at New York, which is four hundred feet long, has, after two attempts, been safely launched. It took two powerful steamers to haul her into what Paddy would call her native element; and she will want a small bay to turn in.

**SMOKING THE "INNY."** The editor of the Boston Post has received some of the cigars that were captured with Santa Anna's carriage. So it seems old Timber-leg makes some smoke yet for editors.

**ROCKS FALLEN.** An immense rock, in the mountains seven hundred feet high, recently fell into the valley of Montroux, Switzerland. It killed two thousand head of cattle as it swept along, and crushed seven houses and all their inmates.

**FRESH WATER BELOW THE SALT.** At New Haven, Ct., they have bored down through the wharves and salt water to the depth of forty feet, and brought up pure fresh water through iron tubes, put down for the purpose. It rises within a foot of the top and is inexhaustible.

**VERY DESCRIPTIVE.** Cape Island is described by a late writer as having "a great quantity of white sand on one side and a good deal more on the other." It must be very gradually, so as to render it tough; and to effect this, the forms are placed so as to receive a portion of the surplus flame of the furnace. The inventor thus forms flag stones, blocks for building, or for paving and other useful purposes, and they have been found to be very durable and convenient; exhibiting a hardness in many instances superior to granite. Thus, what was formerly in the way, and considered as a nuisance, is converted to a valuable use.

**BIGGER THAN BANVARD'S.** Panorama views of the Mississippi are getting plenty. Stockwell, a painter of St. Louis, is painting one three times larger than Banvard's.

**BURSTING UP.** An old lady, while sitting on a barrel of yeast, on board of one of the steamers in the English channel, was suddenly thrown ten feet into the air, by the bursting of the barrel. She fell pretty heavy again and rather crusty.

**THE LARGEST CUSTOM HOUSE.** The custom house at New Orleans will cover more area than any other custom house in the Union.

**SCHOOLING THE GIPSIES.** A school for the purpose of teaching the gipsy children and weaning them from their wandering habits, has been established at Farsham, in England, and is doing well. A few more schools throughout that kingdom for vagrant children would be a capital plan.

**LOSS OF THE LIQUORS.** A fire in New York burnt up \$12,000 worth of wines and other liquors for the Messrs. Delmonico.

**SONG FACTORY.** A person in Dublin, finding seditious songs in demand, proposes to manufacture them to order for a fair consideration.

**TEXAS SUGAR.** In 1846 Texas exported fifty hogsheads of sugar. The crop of this year is estimated to be five thousand hogsheads.

**FOUR CENTS OR SIX CENTS.** There has been a disagreement between the Senate and House of Representatives, on a grave subject. The House voted to allow six cents to the navy in lieu of grog, but the Senate thought four cents was enough, inasmuch as a man could, if he had good liquor, get comfortably drunk on that.

**BUYING OUT THE HUDSON BAY COMPANY.** If accounts are correct an offer has been made to our Government, by the Hudson Bay Company, to sell out all their houses, forts, territory, buffaloes, Indians, and grizzly bears, at a fair price, and that the proposition has been discussed by the Senate in secret session.

**FERONIOUS ASSAULT.** A street fight occurred in Market Square, on Tuesday night, about twelve o'clock, in which a young man named Joseph Nickless received a severe if not fatal wound with a knife between his lower ribs. It was thought impossible for him to recover for a day or two, but he was said to be likely to live a fair way to recover.

Nickless was met by a gang of half intoxicated rowdies, and one of whom was killed by one of them, whom he named. They were both arrested, and when our paper went to press were under examination. Although he is said to have been some old grudge existing between the parties, we apprehend that sum was the principal instigator of the assault, and the catastrophe but one of the legitimate effects of drunk drinking. We have need of a more numerous police.

[Kennebec Journal, 11th.]

The two young men arrested are George McLaughlin and Stephen Pullen. They were bound over to take their trial at the Supreme Court, in October next. Not obtaining bail bonds, they were committed to jail.

**SPANISH DEST.** It is stated, by foreign papers, that Spain owe to British bond-holders five hundred millions of dollars.

W. H. T.

The Seventeen Years Locusts have made their appearance in myriads, in Canada.



